

REDACTED PURSUANT TO 35-A M.R.S.A. § 704(5)

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2000-275

April 13, 2000

APPEAL OF CONSUMER ASSISTANCE
DIVISION

Decision #1999-6551 Regarding
Central Maine Power Company

ORDER
CORRECTED

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT and DIAMOND, Commissioners

I. SUMMARY

In this Order we uphold the decision of the Consumer Assistance Division (CAD) finding **Customer** owes \$333.51 to Central Maine Power Company (CMP).

II. BACKGROUND

Customer established electric service at a new residence in April 1999. At that time, CMP informed him that it would be transferring a balance owed of \$333.51 from his previous account with CMP at an apartment he rented on Whitney Street in Portland. CMP's records indicate that **Customer** terminated his account at that location on December 31, 1996. **Customer** claims he did not live there "from September 1996 on." CAD found **Customer** responsible for \$333.51 and suggested he enter into a payment arrangement with CMP.

III. DECISION

CMP's records show that **Customer** called CMP on December 31, 1996 and asked for service at Whitney Street to be terminated. At that time there was a balance due of \$333.51 on the account. The account was then put in the name of the landlord, **Landlord**.

A customer is responsible for paying for any electrical usage incurred while an account is in that customer's name. There are no records that **Customer** called any time prior to December 31, 1996 to terminate the account nor are there any records of **Customer** calling CMP to explain that he was not responsible for the bills sent to him on October 1, October 31 and December 2, 1996. A customer should immediately contact a utility if he changes residences so that the utility knows the customer is no longer responsible for the bill. That did not occur here. Therefore, **Customer** owes \$333.51,

which was outstanding on his account at the time he notified CMP. As explained in the CAD decision, **Customer** should contact CMP to make arrangements to pay this past due amount. Therefore, we uphold the decision of CAD and decline to investigate this matter further.

Dated at Augusta, Maine, this 13th day of April, 2000.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Dennis L. Keschl
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: Welch
Nugent
Diamond

NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO REVIEW OR APPEAL

5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of review or appeal of PUC decisions at the conclusion of an adjudicatory proceeding are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 1004 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.110) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which reconsideration is sought.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within 30 days of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 73, et seq.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(5).

Note: The attachment of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the particular document may be subject to review or appeal. Similarly, the failure of the Commission to attach a copy of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the document is not subject to review or appeal.